

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims which occurs in just a few days on September 25.

In 2007, the Congress passed the resolution designating the National Day of Remembrance and affirming two central truths. First, the murder of a loved one is an exceptionally difficult and devastating experience for that family, and, second, that support services are very important in helping victims' friends and families as they cope with the grief and loss.

Today in Washington we have family members who can attest to the devastation of losing a loved one. They are mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and other parts of the family, each of whom have lost a loved one to violence.

They have come together to form, in this case, a Philadelphia-based violence prevention group called Mothers In Charge. I cannot imagine the pain they suffer, but the sad truth is, their ranks grow every day in our country, where about 16,000 people are murdered each year, including over 600 just in Pennsylvania, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Around two-thirds of these murders are committed with firearms.

These families know all the statistics, but the loved ones they lost aren't statistics, they are people and members of their family, and we need to remember that.

I came to the floor last week to talk about a particularly violent day in 1 city, Philadelphia, PA, in which 10 people were shot in 1 day and 5 were killed. Over the weekend, 5 more were killed and 14 wounded—just this past weekend. Two of those wounded were police officers who were targeted during a shooting rampage in Philadelphia that left another five wounded at that location.

The families and friends of the victims, like those who are with us in Washington today, will never be the same because they lost someone unique and special, someone who was the subject of their love and attention, someone whose future they invested in, believed in, and dreamed about until it was stolen away.

The resolution I referred to earlier, designating the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, which passed the Senate in 2007, reminds us of our obligation to recognize the loss these families live with every single day.

The great recording artist Bruce Springsteen, after September 11, wrote a number of songs that referred to that horrific day and how the country was dealing with it. One song he wrote was

called "You're Missing." I will not go through the lyrics, but the refrain was just that, "you're missing." At one point in the song he says:

You're missing when I turn out the lights  
You're missing when I close my eyes—

And then he says—

You're missing when I see the sunrise.

That is the only way I can understand what these families have gone through. That person is missing from their lives every moment of every day, no matter where they are, whether they are falling asleep or waking up or leading their lives. So we have an obligation to remember those they lost and remember those who are in fact missing from the lives of those we think about today.

The second part of this resolution credits the support services that help grieving families. Facing pain and loss, families often need lots of help, whether that is counseling or crisis intervention or legal assistance or other services. This is also something the Philadelphia-based group Mothers In Charge know something about. These mothers took their pain and turned it into a force for good. They advocated for those affected by violence, and they provided counseling and grief support for those victims' families. They also work proactively to prevent violence by intervening with at-risk young people and working with elected officials and community leaders to create safer neighborhoods.

Today, as we commemorate the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, we also express deep gratitude for the critically important work Mothers In Charge and their allied organizations are doing to prevent future tragedies.

As we commemorate the National Day of Remembrance, we must also talk about the types of weapons that took so many lives in the first place and that take more lives every day, firearms. About two-thirds of those 16,000 annual murders are committed using firearms. Tragically, the executive director of Mothers In Charge, Dorothy Johnson Speight, who joins us here today in Washington, knows something about this. Dorothy's son was shot and killed in a dispute over a parking space—a senseless murder of a good and innocent soul. There is no weapon as widely available and as dangerously lethal as a gun, of course, and if Dorothy's work has taught us anything, it is that when tragic murders occur, they are not occasions for grief alone but also a call to action.

That is why I will continue to advocate for commonsense gun reform—from expanding background checks to banning military-style weapons and large-capacity magazines, to the passing of legislation to close loopholes that allow suspected terrorists and violent hate criminals to acquire firearms. All of these measures will make us safer. As Dorothy has often said, gun violence is a public health crisis

with more than 33,000 people killed by the pull of a trigger each year in the United States of America. If we are to do our duty on behalf of our constituents, on behalf of hard-working members of Mothers In Charge and the countless others who have lost a loved one to gun violence as we approach the National Day of Remembrance, we must act to make our communities safer.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:44 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5325 ripen at 5:15 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 39

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 21, Senator PAUL or his designee be recognized to offer a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 39; that there be up to 3 hours of debate, equally divided between the proponents and the opponents, with Senator PAUL controlling 30 minutes of the proponents' time and Senator MURPHY controlling 15 minutes of the proponents' time; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote in relation to the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY pertaining to the introduction of S. 3359 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.